

Meeting Minutes Facilities Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 22, 2008
Madison County Courthouse
Virginia City, Mt

People Present: Chairman John Scully, Commissioner Dave Schulz, Commissioner Jim Hart, Dona Lindsey, Dale Ragain, Paul Marsh, Pat Bradley, Frank Nelson, Roger Williams, Toni James, Allyson Adams, Kim Hudson

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

The minutes were read and approved with no changes.

Correspondence

Mary Oliver wrote an email to Chairman Scully stating that the Montana Heritage Commission met about the schoolhouse situation and informed him that grant money is possibly available to preserve it. They are currently searching for grants and trusts available for a visioning study. Chairman Scully will follow up with her and determine how much and what types of grants. The full email letter is available from Chairman Scully upon request.

Sheri Jarvis wrote an email concerning the current notion that Virginia City is under water rationing. She pointed out that VC is spring-fed and that an actual well does not exist. The full letter is available upon request.

Discussion followed regarding the information printed on the last voter pamphlet and whether it was accurate.

New Business

Wednesday night is the hearing for the city's reconsideration for short-term use of the Lee House. Chairman Scully asked if anyone objected to him representing the committee. No one opposed it. In January, there were three responses in opposition from the original letter sent out January 3 to the neighbors. The letters from the county were not certified. On October 6, certified letters went out to the appropriate parties. Parking availability is still a concern to the city, and it will be discussed and addressed at the Wed meeting.

Courses of Action

Chairman Scully suggested the committee establish a process so a recommendation and be arrived at and given to the County Commission before Christmas. There were no objections to the suggestion.

A notice will be sent to everyone on the mailing list to submit proposals by December 1 to Secretary Robin Blazer. All proposals will be copied and sent out to the mailing list to be previewed before the next meeting date. Proposals should include both short-term (immediate) and long term solutions to the courthouse situation.

Chairman Schulz pointed out that the reason the commission has not taken formal action on anything is because only one month ago was the first formal recommendation from the committee to reconsider the Lee House as a short-term alternative. Since that time, they have requested a meeting with the city council to use it as a business office.

Q: Would it be the commissioners' jobs to do a cost benefit analysis on the proposals?

A: Yes. The FAC does not have the funds to do this.

Q: Does the county have to use the same architects (SMA) that put together the last proposal?

A: Not necessarily, but the county would need to do a new Request for Bids. They were the original winners and they are familiar with the entire process/project and all of the issues involved. The county is not contractually obligated to use them, but it might be in the best interest to stay with them due to the depth of their knowledge at this point.

Chairman Scully pointed out that there were some security issues that needed to be addressed, but do we know if they were addressed adequately in the full loaf or half loaf? When submitting proposals, take into consideration all that is needed.

The proposals are due to Secretary Robin Blazer by US postal mail by December 1. Each presenter will be allowed a 20 minute presentation time with 10 minutes for questions. Expect a long meeting time to give adequate time to all proposers.

Mail Proposals to:

Robin Blazer
PO Box 38
Ennis, MT 59729

Next meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 10 at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Robin Blazer